

PLEASURES FOR COAST SURVEY

Dr. Jones Tells of Difficulty in Keeping Experienced Men.

LARGER APPROPRIATIONS ARE NECESSARY, HE SAYS

Superintendent Declares Salaries Are Too Small and the Rules Are Too Stringent.

Difficulties in the way of maintaining an efficient and well trained force of employees or experts to carry on the work of the United States coast and geodetic survey were pointed out last night by Dr. E. Lester Jones, superintendent, who is anxious that an adequate pension system be provided as an incentive to the trained men to stay in the service. Dr. Jones is preparing to work out some special pension system which will suit the needs of the coast and geodetic survey service. It should be something different, he says, from the pension systems which are being advocated for the classified branches of the service.

With scarcely enough money to keep it going even with days of overtime work on the part of the officials and employees, says Dr. Jones, the United States coast and geodetic survey is called upon to keep safe tracks for vessels of commerce, to show the ownership of lands from original surveys and the actual boundaries of some hundred years or so back. When the work is done, the specialists in their line have spent years and years of their lives in the service, and they are not allowed thirty days' leave and are discharged if they are not recovered at the expiration of that period.

Salaries Are Too Small.

The salaries are small, smaller perhaps than in any other branch of the government service, according to Dr. Jones, who believes that some special provision should be made for the men of this service, men who are trained navigators, surveyors, paymasters and engineers, who on their homes and families sometimes for several years go out and open up uncharted waters to the commerce of the country and the world.

These men, according to Dr. Jones, come into the service when they are about twenty or twenty-two years of age and spend their whole life there. No one, he says, realizes the privations and hardships of the men who are subjected in their work. They have no superiors, in his opinion, and are perhaps as great a service to the country as the officers of the army, the navy, the coast guard and other services.

"When the officer of the navy goes on the bridge of the battleship," said Dr. Jones, "he finds there to aid him in the navigation of the vessel the chief of the officers of the coast survey. But it is the other way with the officers of the survey service. They must go into the waters with their ships and find out the dangers which would be met by other vessels and mark them on the charts, at the same time keeping out of trouble themselves."

Indication of Their Efficiency.

"As indicative of their efficiency, it might be stated that the ships of the survey have never been in a serious disaster, and not one of the men has been lost."

"There are in the bureau at the present time thirteen men from sixty-three to seventy-five years old, who have served faithfully in the government and have made all kinds of sacrifices. They deserve some special recognition in the way of special retirement provision. It should be different from any other service provided for the classified civil service."

"People, he says, do not pay much attention to the recommendations in the coast and geodetic survey are about the worst. The buildings were built first as a hotel, and there are sixteen elevators or floors, with no elevator service. The help is scattered in various little cubbyholes—they cannot be called in several different places. If one doing a piece of work that requires conference with others, it is usually necessary for him to waste ten or fifteen minutes' valuable time traveling back and down the elevators and through the corridors to confer."

There are stored in these buildings records which have been accumulating for the past hundred years. Dr. Jones estimates their value as \$100,000,000, less, for in case of fire, they could be replaced. They cover surveys of water and triangulation of land and are being called for in court cases and furnish the basis for accepted as official in many cases involving land transactions.

Need of Better Filing System.

There is no efficient filing system, he says. The papers are filed in a dozen or more different places in the sixteen floor levels, and when a certain file is requested one has to go to various parts of the building instead of to a file room, as it should be. The survey has not the room, the force or the money with which to establish such an efficient system, he says.

In the crowded quarters there are 250 employees, of which thirty-nine are clerks, according to Dr. Jones' records. Seventeen of the latter number do not get more than \$1 a year. The survey, according to Dr. Jones, is so handicapped that every one has to work as early as 7 o'clock in the morning and work until 6 or 7 o'clock in the evening, and give up parts of their evenings. They do it willingly, too, so much overtime work has been done that the employees have more than 1000 hours of overtime work in a year. It is difficult to keep a good man at \$500 a year, asserts Dr. Jones. Seventy-five dollars a month is a poor salary for the trained help which the bureau must have.

Not only is the survey forced to conduct its operations inefficiently, but it is also required to do so in a manner in which the service is required to get its share of the vessels in the open season—there is not enough money to keep the vessel going the year round. The seamen have to be picked up in the spring when the other vessels have been supplied. The survey has to take the "riffraff," or the lowest type of seamen. To take this class of men, who know that they will be employed for only a short period, hurts discipline. They realize that they will be employed for only six months at the most, and when they get to sea on an expedition they know that they cannot be put ashore and they do not care what they do.

Few Are Experienced Seamen.

Eighty per cent of such men which are placed on the vessels of this service do not know how to handle a row-boat, said Dr. Jones. They have to be taught by the commanding officer and his assistants. After a month or two

they begin to be of real value and become fairly good seamen, and then in two or three months more they are discharged. They have come into the business as greenhorns and are trained. There is no incentive for promotion, and the only future for them is a discharge.

It is an economic waste, in Dr. Jones' opinion, for the government to do this year after year for these vessels the men should be employed the year round in order to maintain an efficient force. Instead of having to train a great many new men each year, for the service seldom gets the same man twice. Every effort is being made to bring the vessels of the coast survey up to a very high standard of efficiency. As far as possible they are being fully equipped with radio outfits and leveling guns in order that the ships may be of the greatest assistance in the event of a marine disaster in the territory in which they are working. The launches are being standardized and the engines also, in order to economize in operation.

"It is hard to patch up old vessels and do other things with government vessels which would not be tolerated by the law in private vessels," said Dr. Jones. "The government should be a little bit more particular in the operation of its vessels in order to set an example for those operating private craft. The government should standardize its vessels and the very best conditions, and in that way give its moral support to the good work of the steamboat industry."

Difficulty of Water Surveys.

Increases in the commerce of the country necessitate the establishment of new harbors, and the experts of this service must find out ways to get them. Dr. Jones said it would be ridiculous for a great railroad system to send an engineer out on the road without some knowledge of what he was going to meet. He is provided with instructions, signals and almost everything to make his running easy, but it is just the opposite with the water surveys. They are sent out with no instructions, no signals and no help. They are not allowed thirty days' leave and are discharged if they are not recovered at the expiration of that period.

Millions are being spent on the railroad there, and it is a good thing, but dollars and dollars will be lost through the wrecking of ships because very little money has been provided for the survey to detect, by means of the wire drag, all the pinnacles rocks which lay millions of dollars in freight and hundreds of lives in the hands of the passengers of people. It is a case of putting the cart before the horse. The people are up, he continued. The people do not seem to be impressed with this fact, he said, but nevertheless it is so. In Alaska during the last twenty years \$50,000,000 in vessel property has been lost, simply because the survey has not had enough money with which to carry on the work quickly.

In the coast and geodetic survey eternal vigilance in all waters in order that the slightest change may be noted in the charts, and a few dollars spent wisely and in time will save thousands of dollars and priceless lives, he concluded.

Dr. Jones is not in any way antagonistic to the failure to make provision for this very important branch of the service. He attributes it to the lack of education on the part of the people, who do not realize the important work of the coast and geodetic survey. He wants the people educated, and he believes the money then will come for the work. He does not believe the people want one of their most important bureaus run inefficiently simply through lack of sufficient funds.

LOSS OF PRISONER-SPY COSTS OFFICER HIS JOB

Deputy Marshal Johnson Removed From Office by Attorney General Gregory.

F. J. Johnson, deputy United States marshal, who was in charge of Ignatius T. Lincoln, confessed German spy, when the latter escaped from custody in Brooklyn last Saturday, was removed from office last night by direction of Attorney General Gregory. Department of Justice officials, after examining a report on the circumstances of Lincoln's escape, decided that Johnson had been unduly negligent.

Lincoln was being held pending extradition to England to answer a charge of forgery. Officials say he has not been connected with any plots to violate American neutrality.

Believes in Johnson's Honesty.

NEW YORK, January 22.—United States Marshal James M. Power of the eastern district of New York, in a statement issued today commenting upon the dismissal of Deputy Marshal F. J. Johnson, declared he had no charges to present to the district attorney in connection with the escape of Ignatius T. Lincoln, the German spy, who was taken in Johnson's custody.

"I have made a thorough investigation," he said, "and have reached the conclusion that the escape was due to nothing more than carelessness. I wish to deny emphatically that Lincoln escaped at noon Saturday, January 15, as was reported in my office at 10 o'clock Saturday morning, and saw him leave the office at 5 o'clock that evening for the jail, in the custody of Johnson. I still have confidence in Johnson, and believe in his honesty."

JUDGE ROBERT RALSTON DEAD.

Contracted Fatal Cold at Meeting of Bar Association.

PHILADELPHIA, Pa., January 22.—Judge Robert Ralston of the common pleas court of this county, widely known as a jurist, soldier and writer on legal topics, died at his home today from a complication of diseases resulting from an attack of pneumonia. He was fifty-three years old and was elevated to the bench in 1901.

Formerly a member of the National Guard, he served as colonel of the 2d Regiment during the Spanish-American war. He was an assistant United States marshal, and was aided in the prosecution of several famous cases. Judge Ralston contracted a cold while in Pittsburgh December 27, when he addressed the Allegheny Bar Association. This developed into grip and pneumonia.

MISS WILSON RECOVERING.

President's Daughter Leaves Hospital Where She Underwent Operation. PHILADELPHIA, January 22.—Miss Margaret Wilson, daughter of the President, left the hospital here today, where January 13 she underwent an operation for the removal of adenoids and both tonsils.

The operation was successful in every respect. It was stated at the hospital, and except for unfavorable weather Miss Wilson would have been able to leave within two or three days. She will remain here with friends until early next week.

OBSTACLE IN WAY OF DEFENSE PLAN

Preparedness Program Is Likely to Be Retarded by German-American Sentiment.

DEBATE OF THE QUESTION IN HOUSE CLOAKROOM

Members Importuned by Constituents, It Is Said, to Oppose the President's Announced Policy.

The cooks who are baking the preparedness pie in Congress have found an ingredient which was not in the original recipe, and just at present they have laid it out on the window ledge to cool, so to speak. Perhaps they will make a little tart of it, just to see what will happen when they stir it into the big dish. This ingredient is the far-famed German-American vote. Some of the members of the House with largely German districts are being instructed, begged and browbeaten in an effort to gain a vote against the President's preparedness program. Others with many Germans in their district are receiving no such letters and the subject is not bothering them. Because of the lack of uniformity the matter is puzzling some of the wisest heads in the House.

Statement by a Leader.

An inquiry was set afoot in the House cloakrooms yesterday afternoon, and it resulted in this statement from a leading democrat of the preparedness committee. "I have been asked by many of my constituents to oppose the President's policy. I am not sure that I will agree with them. I lay it to the door of some of the largest German newspapers. These publications oppose the preparedness program, and they are not alone. I have seen a number of letters from German-Americans in many cities opposing preparedness. Just why they do it is more or less a mystery, but I lay it to the door of some of the largest German newspapers. These publications oppose the preparedness program, and they are not alone. I have seen a number of letters from German-Americans in many cities opposing preparedness. Just why they do it is more or less a mystery, but I lay it to the door of some of the largest German newspapers. These publications oppose the preparedness program, and they are not alone. 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